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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International Relations

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Fall 2016

# Investigating International Relations

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**SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY**

**DIPL 3800  
INVESTIGATING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Fall 2016  
Thursday 11:00am to 1:30pm

Professor Paula Puskarova  
Office Hours: Thursday 10:00-11:00 and by appointment  
Email: paula.puskarova@shu.edu

**Course Objectives**

This class is intended to accomplish two goals. First, this is a class for you to develop tools to pose empirical questions and answer them in a social scientific fashion. Second, as this class is an essential prerequisite to DIPL 4101, you will finish this class having developed a template for your senior project.

To accomplish this first goal, we will spend the bulk of class time on understanding both qualitative and quantitative research. The second goal is one of application – you will use insights picked up throughout the class to produce a research design of your own for use in DIPL 4101.

It is worth stressing that this class will be daunting. We will work at a pace faster than other sections, and we will cover more material. Graduate students often find this material a challenge. This is not because the material is impossible – but rather because it involves thinking in unaccustomed ways. The second part of the course also involves a great deal of math, which many of us were taught to avoid.

**Course Materials**

The textbook that we will use for this course is the following:

Janet B. Johnson and H.T. Reynolds. 2016 *Political Science Research Methods* 8th Edition. SAGE/CQ Press.

An additional set of readings will be available on Blackboard.

In addition, we will be using SPSS, which is a standard statistics package. Please be advised that you will need to have the latest version of SPSS installed on your PCs. Lysa Martinelli should send you the link where you can download the latest version of the SPSS. Please let me know if you do not have it

**Evaluation**

Your grade will be comprised of the following. More information on each of these is available on the last page of the syllabus.

Homework Assignments (6 total – 2@ 5% each; 4 @ 10% each)  
Research Design (50% of grade)

**Other Course Policies**

*Late work:* Late work will not be accepted.

*Academic Integrity:* Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to procedures outlined in the Diplomacy School Academic Integrity Policy. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and will result in a failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:

<http://www.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/community-standards.cfm>  
<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

*Participation:* Students are expected to be actively involved in learning in this class. I will rely heavily on in-class discussion.

*Accommodation:* It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at [\(973\) 313-6003](tel:9733136003) or by e-mail at [DSS@shu.edu](mailto:DSS@shu.edu).

*Note on library issues:* Successful completion of the research design will require you to use considerable library research. Please note the following: 1) Wikipedia is not acceptable as a valid source of information and as such should not be cited; 2) I will not assign Chapter 3 of the Johnson text (which deals with writing a literature review) but you will find this helpful. 3) If you have further library questions, you should discuss them with Diplomacy's library liaison, Lisa DeLuca ([lisa.deluca@shu.edu](mailto:lisa.deluca@shu.edu)).

### **Schedule of Assignments**

<b>Week One</b> SEP 1	<b>Scientific Method / How to Ask Questions</b> Introduction
<b>Week Two</b> SEP 8	<b>Research Design Fundamentals</b> JR: Chapter 1, pages 1-5, 14-17, 27-29, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, pages 74-81.
<b>Week Three</b> SEP 15	<b>More Fundamentals/Concepts and Variables</b> JR: Chapter 4, pages 102-119, and the following:  Stephen M. Walt. 1988. Testing Theories of Alliance Formation: The Case of Southwest Asia. <i>International Organization</i> 42(2): 275-277 <b>ONLY</b>  Martin S. Edwards, Kevin M. Scott, Susan Hannah Allen and Kate Irvin. Sins of Commission? Understanding Membership Patterns on the UN Human Rights Commission. Forthcoming, <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> Pages 1-3 <b>ONLY</b> .  JR: Chapter 4, pages 119-124 and Chapter 5, pages 127-144.
<b>Week Four</b> SEP 22	<b>Concepts and Variables</b> the following:  Martha Finnemore. 1993. International Organizations as Teachers of Norms. <i>International Organization</i> 47: 565-576 <b>ONLY</b> .  John J. Mearsheimer. <i>The Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> (WW Norton, 2001), Chapter 9.

Yoram Haftel and Alexander Thompson. 2006. The Independence of International Organizations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50(2):253-265 **ONLY**.

**Week Five**  
SEP 29

**Case Selection**

JR: Chapter 6, pages 165-170 and 194-204.

Ronald Mitchell. 1994. Regime Design Matters. *International Organization* 48(3):425-435 **ONLY**.

Barbara Geddes. 1990. How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics. *Political Analysis* 2:131-150.

**Week Six**  
OCT 6

**Building Qualitative Research Designs / Descriptive Statistics**

Intro to SPSS. Bring your computers to class!

David M. Edelstein. 2004. Occupational Hazards: Why Military Occupations Succeed or Fail. *International Security* 29(1):49-91.

Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman. 2007. Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield. *Comparative Political Studies* 40(2):170-195.

**Week Seven**  
OCT 13

**Sampling and Inference**

JR: Chapter 11, pages 354-376, Chapter 7

**Week Eight**  
OCT 20

**Sampling and Inference / T-tests**

JR: Chapter 12.

**Week Nine**  
OCT 27

**Crosstabs and Correlation**

JR: Chapter 13, pages 428-463.

Roy Licklider. 1995. The Consequences of Negotiated Settlements in Civil Wars, 1945-1993. *American Political Science Review* 89(3):681-690.

**Week Ten**  
NOV 3

**OPEN DATE: Sign up for individual meetings with me.**

**Week Eleven**  
NOV 10

**Correlation and Regression**

JR: Chapter 13, pages 463-521.

Alberto Alesina and Lawrence H. Summers. 1993. Central Bank Independence and Macroeconomic Performance: Some Comparative Evidence. *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*. 25(2): 151-162

**Week Twelve**  
NOV 17

**Multiple Regression 1**

JR: Chapter 14, pages 527-568.

John A. C. Conybeare. 1983. Tariff Protection in Developed and Developing Countries: A Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Analysis. *International Organization*. 37(3):441-467.

**Week Thirteen**  
NOV 24

**Multiple Regression 2**

Thanksgiving - NO CLASS

**Week Fourteen**  
DEC 1

**Multiple Regression 2**

the following:

Wayne Sandholtz and William Koetzle. 2000. Accounting for Corruption: Economic Structure, Democracy, and Trade. *International Studies Quarterly*. 44(1):31-50.

Michael Ross. 2006. Is Democracy Good for the Poor? *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 860-874.

**Week Fifteen**  
DEC 8

**Logistic Regression Models**

JR: Chapter 14, pages 568-590, JR: Chapter 14, pages 568-590.

Paul Huth and Bruce Russett. 1984. What Makes Deterrence Work? Cases from 1900 to 1980. *World Politics* 36(4):496-526.

**Particulars on Assignments**

**Homework Assignments**

There will be six homework assignments addressing the following topics:

- Research Design Problem Statement (5%)
- Variable Operationalization (5%)
- T-Tests and Crosstabs (10%)
- Correlation (10%)
- Multiple Regression (10%)
- Logistic Regression (10%)

**Homework #1: Problem Statement Assignment:**

**Due at the start of class on Thursday September 22.**

In a minimum of one double spaced typed page with standard margins and fonts (1", 12 point), develop a question that you would like to research. You must do three things:

- ✓ Make certain that it is clear what your question is
- ✓ Address why your question is *theoretically* important
- ✓ Address why your question why is important *for policymakers*

**Homework #2: Variable Operationalization Assignment:**

**Due at the start of class on Thursday October 8.**

In a minimum of three double spaced typed pages with standard margins and fonts (1", 12 point), address the following:

- ✓ *Briefly* (no more than a paragraph) summarize your research question
- ✓ Discuss how other scholars have operationalized the dependent variable that forms the basis of your study.
- ✓ Discuss how you will operationalize the dependent variable in your study.

### **Research Design Paper:**

The primary written assignment in this class is a 15 page minimum (double-spaced with 1" margins and 12 point fonts) research design. **This paper is due electronically at 2pm EST on Monday December 19th.** In this paper you will do the following:

- ✓ Develop an international relations research question
- ✓ Locate this question in the context of relevant literature (i.e. discuss the importance of the question both for theory and policy)
- ✓ Outline a strategy for answering this question addressing the following
- ✓ Operationalize the dependent variable (or what's being caused)
- ✓ Develop a series of alternative explanations for the outcome
- ✓ Operationalize independent variables (or what's doing the causing)
- ✓ Discuss case selection (what cases are you going to look at and why)
- ✓ Develop a testing procedure (or, how you will test your arguments, and how you will know you are right)
- ✓ Offer a respectable bibliography comprised of academic research.

You are welcome to pick any topic you wish, so long as it is an international relations topic. If you wish to build on one of the examples, please discuss this with me in advance. Changes in topics must be discussed with me in advance.